Finding funding for the early career investigator

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Why are you here?

Federal funding

- I have federal funding: 3
- I have applied for federal funding: 5
- I have one or more federal agencies to which I would like to apply: 6
- I have explored federal options or discussed with my mentors but still feel unsure: 13
- It's a mystery!: 16

Foundation funding

- I have foundation funding: 4
- I have applied for foundation funding: 3
- I have one or more foundations to which I would like to apply: 5
- I have explored foundation options or discussed with my mentors but still feel unsure: 14
- It's a mystery!: 17
Why is it important to find funding?

• Support for conducting your research
• Credibility and confidence
• Independence
• Prestige for career progress
Why is it important to build a diversified funding portfolio?

• Eligibility issues
  • Citizenship restrictions
  • Career status
  • Leveraging collaboration opportunities

• Stability
  • Weathering program cuts
  • Diversifying allowable costs
  • Continuity
What is indirect cost recovery?

• All institutions take a cut of your grant
  • 59.9% for federal research awards at UIC
  • Other rates
  • Some foundations don’t pay indirect costs

• Distribution of indirect costs
  • Varies among institutions
  • 47.5% to College, 7.7% to VCR, 32.3% to Other, 12.5% to Projects

• Why is this important?
  • Institutions have a vested financial interest in seeing you succeed!
Where does the funding come from?

Federal
- Funds appropriated by Congress
- Standard format for solicitations within an agency
- Comprehensive guidelines
- Panels of experts for review
- Strict rules on allowable costs
- Published success rates

Private
- Private foundations
- Professional societies
- Corporate foundations
- Corporate partnerships
- Clinical trials
- Gifts from donors

- Wide range of criteria for solicitations, eligibility, and review
- Tend to be smaller awards
- Tend to be focused on specific interests
The nature of federal sponsors

• Issue solicitations with specific guidelines
  • NOFO, FOA, RFA, RFP, BAA

• Agency interest, funding levels, and culture vary
  • Might fund similar types of work, generally avoid mission overlap
  • Interaction with program managers varies in approach and importance

• Fund research via grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts

• Always have a program contact to answer questions
The nature of foundations

• Guided by founder’s mission and/or board’s interests
• Differ widely in terms of interests and funding levels
• Increasingly interested in being able to measure impact
• Vary in their mode of contact
  • Some welcome calls or emails
  • Others do not want to be contacted directly (only offer online inquiries)
  • Program officers usually not as responsive
• Interested in projects that are creative, innovative, and risky but show a high probability of success and impact
Corporate Funding Opportunities

- Campus Partnerships
- Corporate Affiliates Program (CAP)
- Events Sponsorships
- Fellowships and Professorships
- Grants
- Naming Opportunities
- Recruiting
What are limited submissions?

• Sometimes the sponsor limits the number of applications an institution can submit
• Internal review process
• Both federal and foundation

https://research.uic.edu/funding/limited-submissions
What is Pivot? It’s a mystery!!

- 5: I am aware of it but not used it
- 6: I have explored Pivot but not used it extensively
- 32: I have never heard of Pivot
Pivot Community of Science

- Search tool for grants, prizes, and awards
- Federal and private sponsors
- US-based and international opportunities
- Institutions and individuals at all career stages across all disciplines.
- Users may establish a profile that allows Pivot to connect them to other researchers, locally and globally

https://pivot.proquest.com/
Finding funding activity
Log in to Pivot
Group exercise

• Does anyone here work on ulcerative colitis?
  • If so, it’s your lucky day!
  • We’re going to use ulcerative colitis as a mock research area for our activities today
Click on advanced search
Search for “ulcerative colitis”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>15 Results</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15 Mar 2019</td>
<td>$2,500 USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>05 May 2019</td>
<td>$174,750 USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>05 May 2019</td>
<td>$347,490 USD</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- **Student Research Awards**
  - *Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of America, Inc. (CCFA)*
- **Research Fellowship Awards**
  - *Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of America, Inc. (CCFA)*
- **Senior Research Awards**
  - *Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of America, Inc. (CCFA)*
Find the filter for keyword

- All Fields
- Add another row
- Amount
- Deadlines
- Limited Submission
- Activity Location
- Citizenship or Residency
- Funding Type
- Keyword
- Match any
- Match all
- Clear
- search
- or browse
- Explode
- Applicant Type
- Sponsor Type
Find “Digestive Diseases and Disorders”
Results

Search Funding Results

Your Search: ((Keywords=(Digestive Diseases and Disorders)) OR (Exploded Keywords=(Digestive Diseases and Disorders)))

Recently added
Last 7 days: 1

Submission type
Limited Submission: 13
Other Internal coordin.: 6

Top funding types
Research: 115
Training or Scholarship: 38
Program or Curriculum ...: 28
Prize or Award: 18

166 Results

07 Mar 2020
$3,750,000 USD

Limited Silvio O. Conte Digestive Diseases Research Core Centers (P30 Clinical Trial Optional)
United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
National Institutes of Health (NIH)
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)

16 Mar 2019
$275,000 USD

Pilot and Feasibility Clinical and Translational Research Studies in Digestive Diseases and Nutrition (R21 Clinical Trial Optional)
United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Breakout exercise

• Divide room in 3 sections
  • Section 1: activity location
  • Section 2: applicant type
  • Section 3: funding type

• 5 min
What did you find?

- How many did you get?
- How many seemed relevant?
- Did you get many international opportunities?
- Who’s the primary sponsor?
How are we feeling?!
Individual role play exercise

Vignette 1

Dr. Anita Grant is an early career investigator who earned her PhD 7 years ago. She is a tenure-track assistant professor with generous startup funds in her second year at UIC. Her research focus is ulcerative colitis, with a specific focus on gut microbiome-host interactions. Some of Dr. Grant's work relies on experiments in mouse models, but she also conducts cell-based studies. Her lab group comprises 1 technician, but so far she doesn’t have any postdocs or grad students, although her lab is equipped and set up for research. She has 12 publications, including a 1st author paper in PNAS.

Questions to answer

• How many funding opportunities did you find?
• What are they key sponsors for this topic?
• Which filters did you adjust to change the number of hits?
What did you find?

Questions to answer

• How many funding opportunities did you find?
• What are they key sponsors for this topic?
• Which filters did you adjust to change the number of hits?
How are we feeling?!
Try your own topic

Vignette
• You!

Questions to answer
• How many funding opportunities did you find?
• What are they key sponsors for this topic?
• Which filters did you adjust to change the number of hits?
Save your search!
Break!
Evaluating funding opportunities activity
Is this the right grant to apply for now?

Eligibility
- Institutional
- Personal

Scope
- Adequate funding?
- Budget restrictions?

Deadline
- Letter of Intent (LOI)
- Application
- Funding awarded

Fit
- Why me?
- Why UIC?
- Why now?
Small group exercise

• Break into groups of 3-5
• Read solicitation 1
  • NIH PAR-17-123: Biomarkers for Diabetes, Digestive, Kidney and Urologic Diseases Using Biosamples from the NIDDK Repository (R01)
• Pretend to be Anita Grant
• Answer questions on worksheet
Questions

1. Is UIC eligible to apply for this award? How do you know?
2. What restrictions are there to be the PI?
3. Is the opportunity institutionally limited?
4. How much money can you get for this opportunity?
5. How long would this program fund a project?
6. What is the deadline for this application?
7. Besides the project narrative and budget, what other documents are required for this application (e.g. letters of support, mentoring plans)?
8. Does this require partners at UIC? If so, who should they be?
9. Does this require external partners? What partners would someone from UIC need to make a competitive application?
10. What projects have been funded by this program?
11. Do you think your PI should apply for this opportunity?
What about these PIs?

Vignette 2
Dr. Ido Reesertch is a mid-career investigator who earned his PhD 16 years ago. He is an associate professor with tenure. Dr. Reesertch has several grants, including an NIH R01, a CBC Catalyst Award, and he is a co-investigator on a U54 grant. He also works on ulcerative colitis, but he focuses on inflammatory mechanisms and host/immune cells with some work in mice and rats. His lab includes 1 lab manager, 1 postdoc, and 3 phd students. He has 45 publications, including a senior author paper in Cell and a co-author paper in Nature.

Vignette 3
Dr. Wade Ingdoh is a full professor with tenure who earned his PhD 30 years ago. He has two R01s and 3 sub awards from collaborative grants. He is also an ulcerative colitis researcher, but his specialty is genetic underpinnings for microbial-host relationships. He uses GWAS and knockout mice to test his hypotheses. His staff includes 1 lab manager, 2 technicians, 2 postdocs, 7 PhD students, and he routinely hosts students from a summer undergraduate research program. He has 136 publications, with several in high profile journals.
What about these other solicitations?

• Each group pick a vignette
• Answer the questions for the remaining solicitations
  • NIH PAR-18-012 (solicitation 2)
  • NSF 18-600 (solicitation 3)
  • AGA-Takeda (solicitation 4)
What do you think?
Thank you!

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